

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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O 061345Z APR 77 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0938

S E C R E T BRASILIA 2689

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 67973 (B) BRASILIA 2479 (C) STATE 73711

(D) ELTZ-RUSER TELECONS 3/4

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAS BRIEFED GOB ON PRESIDENT'S FORTHCOMING NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT. MESSAGE REPORTS CABRAL DE MELLO'S REACTION.

2. ON APRIL 5, ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON AMBASSADOR CABRAL DE MELLO TO MAKE ORAL PRESENTATION PURSUANT TO REFTELS -, B, AND C. CABRAL DE MELLO LISTENED ATTENTIVELY BUT SOON CALLED IN A STAFF AIDE WHO MADE VERBATIM RECORD OF COUNSELOR'S PRESENTATION. AT VARIOUS POINTS (SUCH AS THE FOUR US DOMESTIC DECISIONS, THE TWO ELEMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL CYCLE PROGRAM AND THE THREE APPROACHES TO STRENGTHENING NON-PROLIFERATION), CABRAL DE MELLO STOPPED AND WENT OVER THE TEXT A SECOND TIME TO ENSURE A FULL UNDERSTANDING IN ENGLISH AND PORTUGUESE. AT THE END, CABRAL DE MELLO THANKED COUNSELOR AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH IF HE HAD ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS.

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EM PRINCIPAL POINTS WHICH EMERGED WERE:

A. CABRAL DE MELLO SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE MANNER IN WHICH PRESIDENT WOULD RELEASE STATEMENT, IN PARTICULAR WHETHER PRESIDENT WOULD DELIVER STATEMENT PERSONALLY AND WHETHER HE

WOULD DO SO IN THE FORM OF A PRESS CONFERENCE. COUNSELOR SAID THERE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE A BRIEFING OF SOME KIND FOR THE PRESS IN WASHINGTON. (COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT BRAZILIAN JOURNALISTS IN WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN FAIRLY PROMINENT IN RECENT PRESS BRIEFINGS.)

B. CABRAL DE MELLO ASKED ABOUT MODALITIES US HAD IN MIND FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH INTERESTED NATIONS (PARA 3(D), REFTEL A) I.E. WHETHER WE HAD IN MIND AN EXISTING INSTITUTION (IAEA), SOME RESTRICTED GROUP (I.E. THE LONDON SUPPLIERS GROUP) OR SOME NEW FORUM, THEN ANSWERED HIS OWN QUESTION BY NOTING THAT FROM THE WORDING OF THE US PRESENTATION WE MUST HAVE IN MIND A RESTRICTED CONSULTATION IN WHICH "A FEW" MAJOR COUNTRIES, I.E. COUNTRIES BEING BRIEFED ON THE PRESIDENT'S FORTHCOMING STATEMENT, COULD ENGAGE IN "INFORMAL" DISCUSSIONS. COUNSELOR NOTED THAT HE COULD NOT ELABORATE ON THE PRESENTATION BUT (PARAPHRASING PARA 3(G)) THAT THE USG WAS INTERESTED IN COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS, AS PART OF DEVELOPING A MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK. (COMMENT: IT IS OF SOME INTEREST HOW QUICKLY CABRAL DE MELLO DISCARDED THE IAEA, THEN FOCUSED ON THE LONDON SUPPLIERS' GROUP, "THE ONLY SUCH EXISTING RESTRICTED GROUP", IN HIS WORDS. EMB OFFICER DELIBERATELY AVOIDED FOLLOWING UP CABRAL DE MELLO'S COMMENT.)

C. DURING THE PRESENTATION OF PARA 3D (REFTEL A), CABRAL DE MELLO PAUSED, THEN REPEATED THE WORD "NATIONS". COUNSELOR REPEATED THE PASSAGE,
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THEN -- IN AN ASIDE -- COMMENTED THAT THIS WORDING WAS DROWN FROM A CIRCULAR MESSAGE FOR EMBASSIES IN THE COUNTRIES BEING CONSULTED ON THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. (COMMENT: WE HAVE EVIDENCE -- INCLUDING DIRECT COMPLAINTS -- THAT SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS BELIEVE USG, IN ITS CORRESPONDENCE, DELIBERATELY AVOIDS REFERRING TO THE GOB BY NAME, INSTEAD USING "BRAZIL OR SOME OTHER VAGUE TERM". THAT SUCH A SUPPOSITION WOULD BE GIVEN SERIOUS CREDENCE IS, OF COURSE, A REFLECTION OF THE SUSPICIONS AMONG SOME OF THE SENIOR LEVELS OF THE GOB ABOUT US OBJECTIVES AND THE UNCERTAINTY AMONG THESE OFFICIALS OVER THE COURSE OF US-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS AND THE PROSPECTS FOR THE NUCLEAR ISSUE.)

3. CABRAL DE MELLO SPENT SOME TIME PROBING THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE IFCEP, THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN WORK ON FUEL CYCLES AND THE ASSURANCE OF ACCESS TO FUEL SUPPLIES. HE WONDERED WHETHER THESE EFFORTS WERE INTENDED TO BE SEQUENTIAL. COUNSELOR

SAID THAT WHILE TAKING THE TEXT LITERALLY THIS
POSSIBILITY WAS NOT PRECLUDED, THERE REALLY WAS
NOTHING IN THE TEXT TO SUPPORT SUCH AN INTERPRETATION.
WHILE THE EMBASSY HAD NO EXPLICIT GUIDANCE ON THIS,
IT WOULD SEEM THAT WORK IN BOTH AREAS COULD GO
FORWARD SIMULTANEOUSLY AND IN PARALLEL.
F. NOTING THE PASSAGE ON STRENGTHENING AND
IMPROVING THE IAEA, CABRAL DE MELLO SAID "THAT IS
GOOD". (COMMENT: THIS IS THE ONLY PASSAGE
WHERE CABRAL DE MELLO OFFERED A VERY DEFINITE
POSITIVE REACTION. THIS RESPONSE IS CONSISTENT WITH
BRAZIL'S EMPHASIS THAT SAFEGUARDS, AS OPPOSED TO RESTRAINTS,
ARE THE SOLUTION, AND ITS STRESS ON THE MODEL COMPREHENSIVE
NATURE OF ITS SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH THE IAEA.)
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